



PRESS RELEASE

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168th Security Forces Squadron conducts base security abroad

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Approximately 15 Alaska Air National Guard members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron, 168th Air Refueling Wing, have deployed overseas to the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

While deployed, the Guard members are tasked with the mission of base security and support.

"The training that our security forces members have gone through has prepared them for what is to come, as it's almost a mirror image of what they will go through down range," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ling, security force manager for the 168th Security Forces Squadron. "We had a young group heading out, many for the first time, but I have no doubt that they are ready for the mission."

The overall mission and training for this deployment could lead to the Security Forces members being away from home station anywhere from six to nine months. Family and friends also have to prepare for what is the first deployment for most.

"I've been through several deployments so it was helpful for me to talk with my security forces members from personal experience," said Senior Master Sgt. Ling. "I was able to tell them that I've been, done that, and this is what you have to look forward to. Now good luck and see you when you return."

The Guardsmen were recognized during a deployment ceremony in their honor Sept. 25, prior to the Airmen leaving Alaska in two separate groups over the past month.

The Guard members are scheduled to return home Spring 2015.

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Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ling, 168th security force manager, and members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron stand at parade rest during a deployment ceremony given in their honor at the security forces squadron Sept. 25 at Eielson Air Force Base. U.S. Air Guard photo by Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo.

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Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ling, 168th security force manager, and members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron join in a moment of silence during a deployment ceremony given in their honor at the security forces squadron Sept. 25 at Eielson Air Force Base. U.S. Air Guard photo by Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo.

140925-M-DD045-019

Col. Bryan White, 168th Mission Support Group commander, address members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron along with their family, friends and special guests during a deployment ceremony Sept. 25 at Eielson Air Force Base. U.S. Air Guard photo by Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo.

140925-M-DD045-023

Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ling, 168th Security Force Manager, presents Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Amstrup, 168th Security Force Combat Arms Training Maintenance superintendent, with an Alaska state flag during a deployment ceremony at the security forces squadron Sept. 25 at Eielson Air Force Base. U.S. Air Guard photo by Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo.